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REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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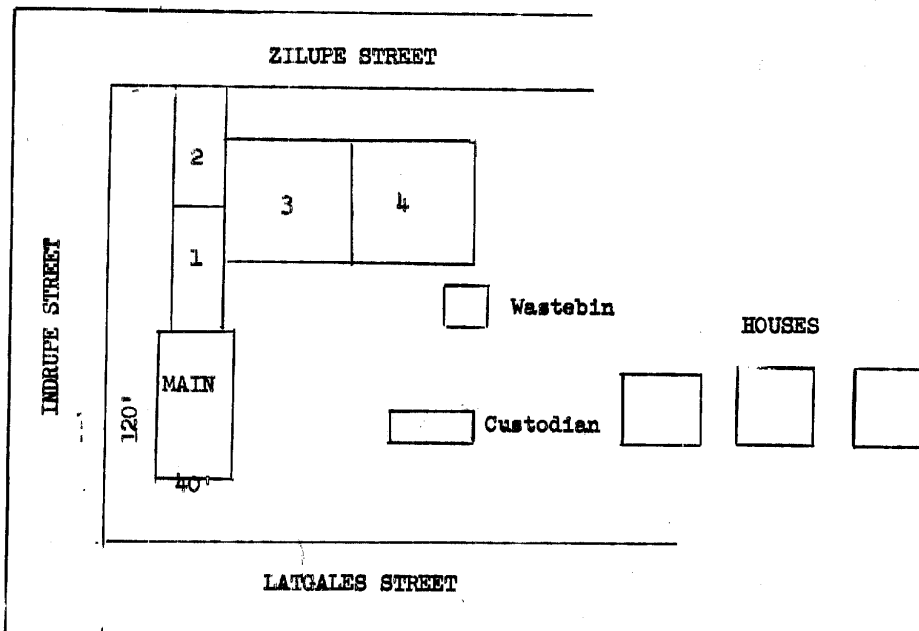
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1. The Planeta plant is located in Riga at 239 Latgales Street (now called Moscow St). The factory is approximately five kilometers from downtown Riga. Latgales Street runs parallel to the Dvina River. It is a main traffic artery containing street car and bus lines and is part of a main route to Moscow (USSR).
2. Following is a rough sketch of the plant which is located on a plot measuring 14888 sq metres:



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Buildings and Machinery

3. The buildings were all of one-story brick construction except the main building which was two stories. [] not know their age except for Building #4 which was erected [] in 1937. All the buildings were in good condition. The wastebin was a simple building of frame construction. []
4. The main building contained besides the offices; packing and packaging machines and facilities; four polishing machines and two grinding machines. Buildings #1 and #2 were machine shops. They contained: six lathes of German-make in excellent condition; ten boring machines, part German-built and part Latvian-built; three shapers which were new German machines; and two heavy drop presses, one German-make of 25 tons and one 5-ton Latvian-make, a very primitive machine.
5. Building #3 was divided into three parts: The first part contained a boiler and a sterilizing vat for cleaning needles. Its capacity was 1,500 liters. The needles were dropped into the vat in tubs suspended from chains. The second part of Building #3 contained the Schaubert machines. These machines were used in a polishing and cleaning operation after the needles had been annealed. Each machine had a capacity of 12 rolls weighing 20 KM each. The machines whirled the needles through a chemical bath for 24 - 48 hours. This process was basically a chemical operation. After this, the needles were sterilized and packaged. [] three of these machines in good operating condition and four in reserve. []
- The third part of Building #3 contained the annealing pits; the grinding wheels which were belt driven and ground about 3,000 needles per minute. (The segment of wire is ground on both ends to form the point, and in the middle to form the eye. From each segment of wire two needles are made.) This portion of the building contained the stamping machines which flattened the end of the needle and formed the eye. There was one large machine, five smaller ones, and four very small ones. At least one machine of each type was kept in reserve.
6. Between Building #3 and #4 was the stockroom where tools and materials for production were kept.
7. Building #4 contained two fully automatic cutting machines of German-make which stretched the wire and cut it into the required lengths. Five fully automatic machines for making ordinary pins were located in this building, three of which were German-made. A German machine for making caps for safety pins was also located here. Also there were two Swedish-built machines which automatically made thumb tacks in a four-step process. We made four sizes of thumb tacks. Another Latvian-built machine produced hair pins in a three operation process - cutting, bending and crimping. Since Planeta was a specialty plant, [] built and/or modified many machines.

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Raw Materials

8. [] source of raw materials was the government wire mill at Lepaya. Planeta secured all its wire from this mill. []
- The sole exceptions to this were a small amount of Soviet wire that came from Leningrad during the 1940-41 USSR occupation and some German wire during the German occupation (1941-44). In 1944, there was a three-year supply of raw materials on hand. The raw materials were various sizes and grades of wire and steel strip for thumbtack stock. A small amount of tool steel was used to make jigs, dies, and matrixes. [] bought Swedish, Czech and English steels for this purpose. The English steel was Sheffield. Most of this came from an English firm, Firth. [] Czech steel to be

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equal in quality to the Swedish, and much cheaper in price. [redacted] Soviet steel was very good, but the quality was not uniform. The chemicals and miscellaneous raw materials came mostly from Latvia. Electricity (220 V) and water were obtained from the facilities of the city of Riga.

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Labor Force - Production

9. [redacted] employed from 50 to 60 persons directly engaged in production, most of whom were skilled laborers. The number fluctuated with the number of orders on hand. In the office there were two bookkeepers, two stenographers, a general clerk and a bill clerk; also a stockroom manager and helper, a janitor, and three watchmen. [redacted] not more than 10% of [redacted] employees still work there.
10. [redacted] factory was the only one of its type in the Baltic states. In addition to the domestic market, [redacted]
11. Planeta manufactured the following items: special parts of textile weaving machinery, shoe maker's tacks; all types of needles including sail, tobacco, upholstery and surgical; pins; safety pins; phonograph needles; thumb tacks; hair pins; paper clips; staples; crocheting hooks; knitting needles; and restraints for mental patients. In view of the varied nature of our products, it is impossible to give accurate information on quantities made. [redacted] estimate the value of [redacted] plant in 1944 at US \$200 thousand.
12. There were no railroad sidings to or from the plant. [redacted] transported manufactured goods by truck to the railroad freight station in downtown Riga. Some [redacted] products were sent to the buyer directly by mail.
13. The Planeta plant was operating in 1948 according to a story in "Cina", the Latvian Communist Party Organ /#40, 18 Feb 48/. The "Cina" article reads as follows:

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"The factory Red Planet increased its overall production 200% in 1947. It produced approximately five times more special paper clips than it did the previous year. The factory is producing sewing machine needles which it never produced before. Machines for production will be received from the Brotherly Republics." [redacted] comment: [redacted] "the Brotherly Republics" means the Soviet Zone of Germany."/

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